



*March 31, 1776*

*Dear Messieurs George Washington and Thomas Jefferson,*

*As we begin this momentous task of creating a new nation, let us also consider ending the one, true evil that has ensnared our fledgling country since its inception, the forced slavery of the African people.*

*I realize that you both are slaveholders with a long tradition of kindness towards your enslaved servants. But this is not the norm for most members of this humbled caste, who exist at the whim of their owners in poverty, ignorance and violence. How can we, as Christian men, agree to the enslavement of other men, simply on the colour of their skin? How can we justify the sale of children, born in this new nation, simply because their mothers are the property of their masters? How can we tolerate the sale of women and young girls on the auction block like livestock?*

*This nation has built its economy on the sale of human beings who are bought and sold, dragged against their will from their homes onto ships of abject horror to land in climes so different than their own. This evil permeates all realms of our new nation, from the edge of Boston harbor to the everglades of Florida. Every city has been built through forced labor. Our towns hold layers of human being in bondage. Our animals live better lives.*

*Let us, once and for all, end this horror and begin this nation with freedom for all men, regardless of the color of their skin. Let us avoid all the horror that the future holds for our posterity if we prolong the enslavement of human beings.*

*For they are all human beings. Once and for all, let us acknowledge this truth.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*John Adams*